Dear George,

10/1/84

Your this morning's piece on the FBI's handling of wiretap data in the Donovan case suggests that you and/or any sources may be interested in how the FBI hides such stuff. It has no file classification for this kind of information and it departs from its own practise in avoiding filing in the appripriate "main" files.

Tapes and other related information are filed so that on search it is automatically ignored as "irrelevant."

There "administrative matters" classification is used, referred to internally as "admats." As of my last knowledge.

According to normal FBI practise, everything relevant is in the "main" file, with "see references" used for such things as persons mentioned, etc.

The apparent rationale that would be used to justify this misfiling is that all wiretaps begin with an administrative request and have to be administered, therefore "admat."

The practical result is that the FBI conducts ostensibly enormous searches without identifying a single one of hundreds of tapes and other relevant records.

This is what happened when FBIHQ sent a "no stone unturned" directive to all 59 field offices to be able to inform OPR for its internal King investigation. In 404 pages of inventories only not a single tape turned up inventoried. The means by which FBIHQ cues the field offices in is to follow what appears to be a directive ordering a complete and exhaustive search is to tell each field office what files are to be included. The field offices properly understand this to mean no other files are to be included. Only when a field office has its own ass to cover did they even suggest having anything else.

While this has no direct bearing on known tapes, is there any question of unknown tapes, logs, transcripts and related memoranda?

Sometimes after copying duplicate filing is indicated in the vertical margins, in addition to in the original record. If the record itself has no serial number then the original or "recorded" copy is indicated in the margin. Leaks are sometimes noted in this manner, as with an xref to a 94 file. Technically this indicates "research matters" but it is actually for press, lobbying, leaks, etc.

Best,